

AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

□SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 164.7871 TO 164.7885 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Academic year" means July 1 through June 30 of each year;

(b) "Apprentice" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010;

(c) "Eligible student" means an eligible high school student who has graduated from high school or a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(e);

(d) "Registered apprenticeship program" means an apprenticeship program that:

1. Is established in accordance with the requirements of KRS Chapter 343;

2. Requires a minimum of two thousand (2,000) hours of on-the-job work experience;

3. Requires a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) hours of related instruction for each year of the apprenticeship; and

4. Is approved by the Kentucky Labor Cabinet;

(e) "Related instruction" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010; and

(f) "Sponsor" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010.

(2) Notwithstanding KRS 164.7881, an eligible student who earned a KEES award and is an apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program shall be eligible for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship.

(3) (a) Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, an eligible student enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program may receive reimbursement of tuition, books, required tools, and other approved expenses required for

participation in the registered apprenticeship program, upon certification by the sponsor and approval by the authority.

(b) The reimbursement amount an eligible student may receive in an academic year shall not exceed the student's KEES award maximum.

(c) The total reimbursement amount an eligible student may receive under this section shall not exceed the student's KEES award maximum multiplied by four (4).

(4) Eligibility for a KEES scholarship under this section shall terminate upon the earlier of:

(a) The expiration of five (5) years following the eligible student's graduation from high school or receiving a GED, except as provided in KRS 164.7881(5); or

(b) The eligible student's successful completion of the registered apprenticeship program.

(5) The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the procedures for making awards under this section.

☐ Section 2. Whereas the changes made to the KEES program in this Act will begin with the 2017-2018 academic year in order to provide immediate assistance to Kentucky students, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.